
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PROCLAMATION

Prenatal exposure to alcohol is the leading preventable cause of mental impairments and birth defects. Brain damage, learning disabilities, facial deformities, vision and hearing problems, behavioral disorders, and heart, kidney, liver and skeletal malformations are examples of the consequences of a mother consuming alcohol during pregnancy.

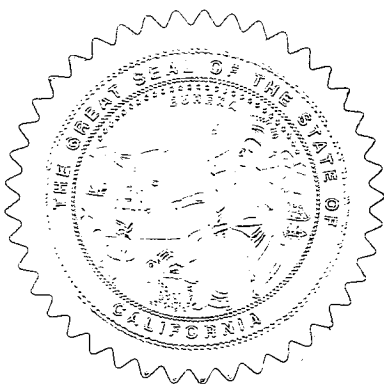
These and many other ills fall under the umbrella name of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and any one of them can prevent a child from living a happy, healthy and long life. In California, more than 5,000 babies born this year will have FASD. Those afflicted cannot outgrow the adverse physical and behavioral affects; they will bear them for the rest of their lives.

I, therefore, urge all women who are pregnant, think they may be pregnant or who are planning on becoming pregnant, to protect your baby's future by abstaining from alcohol for the duration of your pregnancy. There is no safe amount of alcohol you can consume if you want to ensure that your baby is born free from the affects of FASD.

On this, the ninth day of the ninth month – representing the nine months of pregnancy – I encourage all Californians to do their part to prevent FASD and to show compassion to those suffering from the consequences of prenatal alcohol exposure.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2006, as "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 8th day of September 2006.



A handwritten signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger in black ink.

Arnold Schwarzenegger
GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

Attest:

A handwritten signature of Bruce McPherson in black ink.

Bruce McPherson
SECRETARY OF STATE